

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 00169 071435Z

53

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 OMB-01 /071 W
----- 003845

R 071320Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8009

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 169

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, LE

SUBJECT: IBRAHIM QULAYLAT GIVES VIEWS TO PRESS

REF BEIRUT 13787

1. IN LENGTHY ARTICLE PUBLISHED IN L'ORIENT-LE JOUR
JAN 5, SEC GEN OF INDEPENDENT NASSERITE MOVEMENT (MNI/
MOURABITOUN), IBRAHIM QULAYLAT, EXPOUNDED UPON VIEWS OF
HIS ORGANIZATION (SEE REFTEL). IN THIS, THIRD AND LONGEST
INTERVIEW TO APPEAR SINCE HIS "STAR BEGAN TO RISE", HE
REITERATED PREVIOUS POINTS, ESPECIALLY THOSE MADE TO
REUTERS DEC 25 IN WHICH HE STATED THAT HIS MOVEMENT HAS
POLITICAL AND SOCIAL OBJECTIVES FOR WHICH "RECOURSE TO ARMS IS
LEGITIMATE."

2. DESPITE RUMORS THAT MOURABITOUN HAVE BEEN SOLD TO SAUDIS,
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 00169 071435Z

GENERAL TONE AND VIEWS EXPRESSED UNLILEY TO PLEASE CONSERVA-

TIVE ARABS OR TRADITIONAL LEBANESE MOSLEMS. AS TO BE EXPECTED, HE LINKED THE LEBANESE CRISIS WITH THE RIGHTIST AIM TO LIQUIDATE "PURE AND SIMPLE" THE ENTIRE PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE AND NATIONALIST MOVEMENTS AND PROGRESSIVE ARAB REGIMES UNDER COVER OF CONFESSIONAL STRUGGLE.

3. HE SETS FORTH FOUR BASIC POINTS OF HIS MOVEMENT "IMBUED WITH NASSERITE THOUGHT":

(A) "ARABISM" OF LEBANON IS QUESTION WHICH CANNOT BE OBJECT OF ANY DISCUSSION.

(B) TO DISCUSS SOVEREIGNTY OF LEBANON IN AN HYSTERICAL MANNER (I.E., AS FRANGIE AND PHALANGISTS DO) IS REJECTED BY MNI.

(C) "PRESENT REGIME THROUGH ITS ARCHAIC INSTITUTIONS BASED UPON POLITICAL CONFESSIONALISM, MAKING LEBANON A PRIVELEGED STATE FOR MARONITES, IS CATEGORICALLY REJECTED."

(D) MNI REFUSES PARTITION OF LEBANON.

4. THROUGHOUT HIS REMARKS, QULAYLAT APPEARED TO LEAVE LITTLE IF ANY ROOM FOR MODERATION. HE REITERATED THAT MNI DEMANDS "MODERNIZATION AND EVOLUTION OF REGIME," AND CONSEQUENTLY FOUND ITSELF FULLY ALLIED WITH OTHER PROGRESSIVE AND NATIONALIST GROUPS IN DEMANDS FOR POLITICAL REFORM. OMINOUSLY, HE REJECTED ALL ATTEMPTS TO FIND "COMMON DENOMINATORS OF PSEUDO-COMPROMISES" LEADING TOWARD A POLITICAL SITUATION. AFTER CHARACTERIZING THE "COMMON DENOMINATORS" AS "INSUFFICIENT AND INSUBSTANTIAL", HE ASKED RHETORICALLY WHAT REACTION WOULD RESULT FROM APPROACHING "FUNDAMENTAL REFORMS IN THE STRUCTURE OF THE REGIME?"

5. USING THIS POINT AS A SPRINGBOARD, QULAYLAT WENT ON TO SET HIS MOVEMENT APART FROM TRADITIONAL MOSLEM GROUPS. IN HIS OPINION, "COMMON DENOMINATORS" WERE NOTHING MORE THAN A "DECEPTION FOR TRADITIONAL MOSLEM FORCES WHO HAVE TRIED TO BYPASS THE POPULAR MOVEMENT TO GUARD THEIR LEADERSHIP AND ABORT NATIONAL DEMANDS. IN CASE ANYONE HAD MISSED HIS POINT, HE ADDED THAT "THE MNI REFUSES TO ACCEPT THE SLIGHTEST ALTERATION TO THE NATIONAL DEMANDS AND WILL NOT ADHERE TO ANY COMPROMISE THAT OTHERS CLAMOR FOR." THE "OTHERS " IN THIS CASE BEING THE "ISOLATIONIST RIGHT... ASSOCIATED WITH TRADI-

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BEIRUT 00169 071435Z

TIONAL MOSLEM FORCES.

6. COMMENTS: DESPITE FACT THAT LITTLE QULAYAT SAID HAS NOT BEEN SAID BEFORE, HIS VIEWS CAN BE CONSIDERED OF SIGNIFICANCE FOR SEVERAL REASONS. HE IS THE LEADER OF AN ARMED GROUP HAVING CAPACITY TO CAUSE TROUBLE IF HE CHOOSES. HE ENJOYS SOME TENUOUS CREDIBILITY AS AN "ELDER STATESMAN" OF STREET FIGHTERS, EVEN THOUGH HE IS NOT A RESPECTED FIGURE IN

ESTABLISHED CIRCLES. HIS INTERVIEWS, IN FACT, CAN BE TAKEN
AS AN EFFORT TO GAIN THE RESPECTABILITY HE NOW LACKS.
FINALLY, HIS REMARKS ABOUT TRADITIONAL MOSLEM FORCES
ASSOCIATED WITH THE ISOLATIONIST RIGHT MAY INDICATE NOT
ONLY A LOW LEVEL STRUGGLE BETWEEN QULAYLAT AND SAEB SALAM
IN THEIR HOME TERRITORY, BUT ALSO POSSIBLE GRWOING FRICTION
BETWEEN LEFTIST AND TRADIONAL MOSLEMS IN GENERAL.
GODLEY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS CONFERENCES, RELIGIOUS GROUPS, RELIGIOUS LEADERS, CIVIL DISORDERS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BEIRUT00169
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760005-0401
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760181/aaaactvo.tel
Line Count: 123
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 BEIRUT 13787
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 APR 2004 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <19 APR 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IBRAHIM QULAYLAT GIVES VIEWS TO PRESS
TAGS: PINS, PINT, LE, NASSERITES, MNI-MOURABITOUN, (QULAYLAT, IBRAHIM)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006